Decreasing population of Vanraji Samooh in Pithoragarh and Champawat

†157. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of Vanraji Samooh in Pithoragarh and Champawat is decreasing constantly;

(b) the immediate measures being taken by the Ministry to save these groups from malnutrition, diseases and financial straits;

(c) whether Government are considering to set up a working group to study the problems of these primitive tribes;

(d) if so, by when the working group would be constituted; and

(e) if not, the alternative steps being taken to study the reasons for their decreasing population and finding solutions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) There is no such notified Scheduled Tribe in Uttarakhand by the name of Vanraji Samooh. However, as per records, there is one Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) called 'Raji'. As per 2001 census, population of'Raji' in Pithoragarh and Champawat districts were 364 & 99 respectively. Data for previous years is not separately available in respect of these districts.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Sexual harassment of working women

158. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sexual harassment/eve-teasing is the major problem being faced by the working women;

(b) whether the above abuse leads to drop in the performance at work places, increase in absenteeism and a victim could go to depression which could change her life forever; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to enforce strict rules to control this offensive behaviour, both in Government and private establishments, to ensure a sense of security to women workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. Sexual harassment/ eve-teasing is one of the problems faced by women including working women. According to the data furnished by National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, 29951 cases of sexual harassment/eve-teasing were registered in the country under Section 509 IPC during the years 2004 to 2006. The National Commission for Women received 472 complaints of sexual harassment at workplace during the years 2005 to 2007 (till September).

(b) Government has not undertaken any specific study in this regard. However, according to the general recommendations of the United Nations (UN) Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) relating to violence and equality in employment, sexual harassment is humiliating conduct and may constitute health and safety problems and creates a hostile working environment.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.